(e) whether any representations have also been received from tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh to increase Export of Tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee on Long Term Strategy for FCV Tobacco constituted by the Government identified markets like France, Portugal, Spain, Australia, Tunisia, Morocco, Philippines, Indonesia, Poland, Hungary, Vietnam, Bulgaria, Egypt, Algeria and Iraq as new and possible potential markets for Indian virginia tobacco.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Tobacco Institute of India, a body of cigarette manufacturers, has suggested that stability in rates and structure of duties should be maintained for 4 to 5 years which would encourage investment in R&D and product quality improvement. According to the Institute such a step would enhance exports of tobacco and cigarettes from the present level of Rs. 500 crores (175 million US $) in 1992-93 to Rs. 3000 crores (about 1000 million US $) by 1997-98.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Simplification of Procedure for Deep sea Fishing Vessels

525. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishing vessels based in Visakhapatnam who have applied for diesel oil subsidy this fishing season;

(b) what steps are being taken to simplify the procedures by the M.P.E.D.A.; and

(c) what steps are being taken by MPEDA to encourage full utilisation of export oriented deep-sea fishing vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) During the current financial year so far 17 companies based at Vizag have applied for availing assistance for 40 vessels under High Speed Diesel Oil Price Reimbursement Scheme.

(b) The Scheme is functioning smoothly. However MPEDA has an open mind and will certainly consider any suggestions which may come to further streamline the procedures within the parameters of the Scheme.

(c) To encourage full utilisation of deep sea fishing vessels, MPEDA encourages modification of vessels for diversified fishing. The subsidy assistance for modification of vessels for diversified fishing as available is:

(a) 30% of cost of conversion of the vessel subject to a maximum of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per vessel.

(b) 30% of cost of erection of blast freezer subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh per vessel.

Inclusion of Tobacco in the "Extreme Focus Category"

526. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include tobacco in the "Extreme Focus Category" to encourage export of tobacco; and

(b) what are the steps being taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of F.C.V. Tobacco

527. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total purchase of F.C.V. tobacco during the year;

(b) what is the unit value realisation thereof; and

(c) what are the corresponding figures of last year and year before?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The quantity of tobacco auctioned and the unit value realised during this year and the corresponding figures in the preceding two years are given below:—

Andhra Pradesh
(End of 20th week of auction)

Year	Quantity Marketed (M. Kgs.)	Average Price (Rs./Kg.)
1991	89.17	33.00
1992	121.01	28.28
1993	122.37	20.97

Karnataka

Year	Quantity Marketed (M. Kgs.)	Average Price (Rs./Kg.)
1990	20.31	26.44
1991-92	26.41	42.13
1992-93	33.24	26.52

Imposition of Levy on the Sale of Cigarettes

528. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations to impose Levy on the sale of cigarettes and to create Market Stabilising Fund for tobacco; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Andhra Pradesh State Tobacco Ryots All Party Action Committee submitted a Memorandum dated 13-4-93 representing inter-alia to impose a levy of 1% sur-charge on sale of cigarettes and to utilise the amount collected as market stabilisation fund for tobacco. The proposal is being examined by Government.

Removal of M.E.P. for Export of Tobacco

529. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.E.P. was removed for export of tobacco;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is its impact on the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) M.E.P. for FCV tobacco has been abolished as a measure of trade liberalisation.

(c) It is too early to assess the impact of abolition of MEP on exports.

Export of Marine Products

530. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 709 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 1993 and state:

(a) whether MPEDA has conducted any study on how to achieve maximum potential of marine exports by full utilisation of ill and sick deep sea fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what would be the increase in export of marine production in case of our country's ill deep sea fishing vessels were used optimally; and

(d) whether MPEDA is formulating any schemes to achieve the objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUD-